

DD/S-56-1256

APR 9 1956

The Honorable Franklin G. Fleete
Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fleete:

Discussions between representatives of the General Services Administration and this Agency have developed further the problems to be faced in the construction of the proposed new CIA headquarters building at Langley, Virginia. Preliminary negotiations with the architect-engineer have further explored these problems. As a result, we have acquired a fairly concrete realization of the impact of the unusual requirements of this Agency on the planning and design of the building.

It seems clear that the architect-engineer will be faced with a more complex problem to resolve than would normally be encountered in an office building of this size and will have to resolve certain unique requirements to achieve a satisfactory over-all result. The bulk of Agency material is classified so that unusual amounts of vault space and other physical safeguarding arrangements are required. Physical compartmentation of personnel and functions is essential for an intelligence activity to a degree not necessary for other Government or private functions. To provide for protection of material in transit, and in order to avoid undue impairment of efficiency by physical compartmentation, special internal and external communications must be provided for. The use of specialised machines for recording and analysing intelligence information is in a high state of development, and the nature, location, and secure installation of such machines require most careful planning to insure the most efficient utilization. All of these factors must be considered in designing the building so as to serve efficiently the complicated functional structure of the Agency and the interrelation of its components, while at the same time preserving sound and economical construction.

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The proper combination of security, efficiency, and economy requires most expert and complete architectural services.

In selecting and negotiating with an architect-engineer for this project, we believe it essential that the foregoing circumstances be kept in mind and that the satisfactory solution of the problems outlined is paramount to obtaining the cheapest available architect-engineer services. If it is necessary to exceed somewhat your normal standards to obtain services required, I am of the opinion that it would be well justified by the nature of this project.

Sincerely,

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Allen W. Dulles
Director

OGC:LRH:job
Rewritten:DD/S;LM:laq
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CONCUR:

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L. E. WHITE
Deputy Director
(Support)

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